8223. 2.
84

THE CASE OF THE Paper-Makers of *Great Britain.*

THE Making of *Paper*, in that part of *Great Britain* called *England*, is of late years come to great Perfection, and daily Improving, and now employs ſeveral Thouſands of Poor Families; but by the many and great Hardſhips that at preſent the Makers lie under, and the Apprehenſions of greater, that are likely to come upon them by the intended *Tax on Paper*, gives them juſt Grounds to fear they ſhall be obliged to lay down ſo uſeful a Manufactory, to the Total Ruine of ſome Thouſands of Families employed therein.

Some of which HARDSHIPS are as follow, *viz.*

I. That *Cards* having laſt Year ſo great a Duty laid on them, that not above one Twentieth part has been made this year of what us'd to be; to the great Detriment and Diſcouragement of the *Engliſh* Manufacturers of *Paper*.

II. That the laſt Year a Duty being laid upon *Almanacks*, has been another great Loſs and Impoveriſhment to the ſaid Manufactory.

III. *Mill-Boards*, which are made in this Kingdom, and alſo imported from *Holland* in great quantities, and uſed to the ſame purpoſes as *Paſt-boards* made of *Paper*, have for ſeveral years hindred the Conſumption of at leaſt 30,000 Rheams of *Paper* yearly; and if this intended Duty be fixed upon *Paper*, excluſive of the ſaid *Mill-Boards*, the Conſumption of *Paper*, uſed in making *Paſtboards*, muſt gradually decreaſe, by reaſon of the Cheapneſs of the ſaid *Mill-boards* (they being exempted from the Duty) until at length no *Paper*, ſubject to the Duty, ſhall be uſed for *Paſt-boards* as formerly, which will not only tend to compleat the Paper-makers, but to the Detriment of Her Majeſty's Revenue by this intended Duty, at the leaſt 60 or 70000 Rheams of Paper yearly, which would otherwiſe be uſed in the *Paſtboard* Trade,

IV. By *Scale-boards*, imported in great quantities at a very ſmall Duty, which are wrought up into *Band-boxes*, which were formerly made of *Paſt-boards* made of *Coarſe Paper*; which Manufactory is now entirely loſt, to the great Prejudice of the *Paper-makers* and *Paſtboard-makers*, and which hinders the Conſumption of very great quantities of *Paper*, and by conſequence muſt alſo be a further very great Detriment to the Revenue intended to be raiſed by this Duty.

It is hoped a *Draw*-back will be allow'd for ſuch *Britiſh* manufactured *Paper*, as ſhall be exported to Foreign Parts.

We humbly crave leave to repreſent to the *Commons of Great Britain*, the great Hardſhips we are like to lie under, by ſo great a Charge on ſome particular ſorts of *Paper* mentioned in the Votes of the 24*th* of *March* laſt; *viz.* on the ordinary *Demies*, ordinary *Crown*, ordinary *Fools Cap*, ordinary *Pott*, and on ſmall ordinary *Brown*; wherein the leaſt Duty voted is 25 *per Cent*, but moſt of it 30 *per Cent. ad valorem*, according to what we the Makers, *bona fide*, ſell them for to the *Stationers.* As for inſtance,

Demies Ordinary, ——	Duty intended 1 *s. per* ℔ ——	Sold at 3*s.* 4*d.*	}	30 *l. per Cent.*
Crown Ordinary, ——	Duty intended 9 *d. per* ℔ ——	Sold ar 2 6		
Fool's Cap Ordinary, —	Duty intended 9 *d. per* ℔ ——	Sold at 2 6		
Ordinary Pott, ——	Duty intended 6 *d. per* ℔ ——	Sold at 2 0	}	25 *l. per Cent.*
Small ordinary Brown, —	Duty intended 4 *d. per* ℔ ——	Sold at 1 6		

And having found, by ſad Experience when a Duty was before laid on *Paper*, about 14 years ago, that we were not able to get one peny advance upon our Goods, we fear we ſhall now lie under the ſame Hardſhip, and that, by laying ſo high a Duty on our Manufactories, we ſhall be forced to loſe the Benefit of all our Arts and Endeavours therein, after ſo many years Labour and Induſtry, and at ſuch vaſt Coſts and Charge, when we have arrived to equal Knowledge with Foreigners, in that Trade.

It is true Foreigners have the advantage of Materials; but we hope the Legiſlative Power will compenſate that by increaſing the Duty on *Foreign Paper* and *Scale-Boards*, and lowering the Duty of our *Home Manufactured Paper*; that ſo Uſeful a Manufactory may not be loſt to the Nation, and Thouſands of People lie ſtarving for want of Employ.

All which is humbly ſubmitted to the Conſideration of this Honourable Houſe, to commiſerate the threatning Evil to the Paper-makers of Great Britain, *that ſo Beneficial a Manufactory may not be loſt to the Nation, and ſo many Perſons employ'd therein totally ruin'd.*

THE CASE OF THE Paper-Makers of Great Britain.